


# Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

St Stephen's House Chapel  16 May, 2014

Gracious Lord, your presence makes of our brick and stone a perfect paradise. You transform this world, restoring what has broken, renewing what has decayed, reviving what falters, refreshing all who hunger and thirst for righteousness.

You are from above; we welcome you.

Generous Lord, your presence brings warmth, gives growth, raises us to our full stature. You extend our reach, you widen our sympathies, you instil in us ever deeper compassion for the travails of your creation.

You are the true vine; we bear fruit from your abundance.

Patient Lord, your presence protects your faithful from our most grievous self-serving illusions. You will not abandon us when we wander far from you — and when we try to resist your kindness, you hold us closer to your heart. You lead and shelter and shield us when our adversary prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

You are the good shepherd; we follow you.

Almighty Lord, your presence makes roads for your trusting children in the impassable wilderness. Though they be hemmed in on every side, you do not abandon them, but build bridges over the abyss and through the mountainous heights you find for us passes that lead to green pastures.

You are the door of the sheep; we enter life through you.

Glorious Lord, your presence reveals to faithful eyes the beauty that love's gentle power unfolds, where hope and faith abide. Stunning, sublime brilliance that darkness could not, does not, *will not ever* comprehend:

You are the light of the world; we receive sight from you.

Constant Lord, your presence guides us from the byways of folly to the path of innocence. You teach us the freedom of self-renunciation, the victory of forgiveness; you promise to justify all those who have learned no longer to try to justify themselves.

You are the way; we walk in your paths.

Eternal Lord, your presence tests every spirit, banishing all the unfruitful works of murky falsehood and making visible all that is light and right and good. You stand unmoved by the furious gales of trickery and deceit, and upholding your emissaries to a world of confusion.

You are the truth; we bear witness to you.

Heavenly Lord, your presence can up children to Abraham from the very paving-stones of our streets, and no spirits, no powers, nobody can claim to exist apart from your will. You breathe your Spirit into us, we take flesh and rise at your word.

You are the resurrection and the life; we put our trust in you.

Thrice-Holy Lord, your presence fills us with sustaining joy. You give us freely those precious gifts that we could not purchase with blood or gold or merit or labour. You come down among us and heighten our senses, guide us to safety, open for us a door, light a path for our feet, make for us a way, teach us your truth, and prepare a place for us in eternal life with the Father.

You are the bread of life; we adore you.